

1 4

Replacing "absentee voting" with "extended voting"  
(HB 344 by Beauchamp/Edwards)

DIGEST: HB 344 would have declared that because no specific grounds are now required to vote absentee by personal appearance, "absentee" voting would be known as "extended voting." Election Code references to "absentee voting" and related terminology would have been construed to mean "extended voting" or other appropriate terminology involving the extended voting concept. The bill also would have required that references be changed as statutes were amended for other purposes.

GOVERNOR'S  
REASON  
FOR VETO:

This change will be confusing to voters and serves no discernible purpose. It is inappropriate to cause confusion in an area as critical as voting.

RESPONSE:

Rep. Jerry Beauchamp, the author of HB 344, said: "I sponsored this legislation at the request of the elections administrator and county clerk of Bexar County. It passed the House and Senate without any problems. The governor did not like the bill; however, I was never contacted by anyone from his office to advise me of his concerns."

Changing the terminology in the Election Code from "absentee voting" to "extended voting" was needed because the absentee voting concept has changed, said Rep. Beauchamp. "In the past, people could only vote absentee by proving they would be unable to vote on election day. People are now encouraged to vote absentee. The office of the elections administrator will just have to work harder to ensure that the voter is aware absentee voting is open to everyone," said Rep. Beauchamp.

NOTES:

The House Research Organization analysis of HB 344 appeared in the May 8, 1989 Daily Floor Report.